

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for the Hardware River watershed (North Fork Hardware and Hardware Rivers) in Albemarle and Fluvanna Counties. The North Fork Hardware River and the Hardware River were first listed as impaired on the Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report due to violations of the State's water quality standard for bacteria in 2006. The creeks have remained on the 303(d) list for these impairments since then.

The impaired segment of the North Fork Hardware River extends 10.42 miles from the headwaters downstream to its confluence with the South Fork Hardware River. The impaired segment of Hardware River extends 23.03 miles from its confluence with the North Fork downstream to its confluence with the James River.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. In addition, Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an implementation plan (IP) for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts. DEQ completed bacteria TMDLs for the Hardware River and the North Fork in July 2007. The TMDLs were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency on April 10, 2008. The TMDL report is available on the DEQ website at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/ApprovedTMDLReports.aspx>

Two public meetings will be held at the northern and southern ends of the watershed to initiate the development of this TMDL Implementation Plan:

- **Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** at Victory Hall, 2nd Floor (401 Valley Street, Scottsville, VA)
- **Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** at the North Garden Fire Hall (4907 Plank Road, North Garden, VA).

The public comment period for the March 31st meeting will end on April 30, 2015, and the comment period for the April 9th meeting will end on May 11, 2015. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nesha McRae, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA, 22801, telephone (540) 574-7850 or e-mailed to nesha.mcrae@deq.virginia.gov.